

RECOGNIZING DIDLAKE, INC. AND
THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a program which in the last several years has helped more than 40,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment: The AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. This program affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This comes within a segment of the population that has suffered from significant, chronic and unacceptable unemployment. However, opportunities realized through the AbilityOne Program have done much in helping to bring people who are blind or have significant disabilities into a working society. I am proud to recognize Didlake, Inc., located in Virginia's 11th district, as one shining example of a nonprofit agency working through the AbilityOne Program to enrich the lives of people with disabilities.

For more than 40 years, Didlake has provided a wide-range of resources to expand opportunities for people with disabilities in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Didlake offers training and support services to people with significant disabilities leading to employment on federal, state and local contracts such as facility management, mailroom operations, administrative services, fleet management, product packaging and more.

The mission of Didlake stands as a true example of why community nonprofit agencies and programs like AbilityOne are a winning proposition for all parties involved. For an individual with a significant disability who has never had the opportunity to hold a job, be independent, participate in the community, or play an important role in society; the training and support that organizations like Didlake offer, and the employment opportunities afforded through partnership with the AbilityOne Program are truly invaluable.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment of Didlake President and CEO Rex Parr and his staff for helping individuals who have significant disabilities find employment. Their work helps people live fuller lives and become more active members of society. I also commend each AbilityOne employee who works every day to improve their lives and support our federal government's mission.

CONGRATULATING JAMES J.
FLAHERTY, VICE PRESIDENT
AND GENERAL MANAGER OF
GENERAL DYNAMICS IN SCRAN-
TON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. James J. Flaherty, who is retiring as Vice President and General Manager at General Dynamics in Scranton, Pennsylvania, after a long and distinguished career in the Army munitions industry.

A son of James Flaherty, Sr. and Jean Joyce Flaherty, Mr. Flaherty was raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, where he graduated from St. John's High School in 1960. A 1963 graduate of Penn State University, Mr. Flaherty joined Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation, Scranton Division, where he held numerous engineering positions until 1969 when he was promoted to engineering supervisor of the forging operations.

In 1972, he was promoted to operations manager after which he was elevated to Assistant General Manager in 1976. In 1978 he was transferred to Chamberlain's New Bedford, Massachusetts, operations where he remained, until 1986 when he was promoted to Vice President and General Manager. He served in that post until 1991 when the New Bedford operations ceased production and he was relocated back to Scranton as Vice President and General Manager of that division.

In 2000, he was promoted to Executive Vice President and, in April, 2003, he was named President of Chamberlain Manufacturing Corporation. In 2006, after General Dynamics acquired Chamberlain, Mr. Flaherty was named Vice President and General Manager of the Scranton operations.

Mr. Flaherty was a member of the ARMS Public Private Task Force, Executive Advisory Committee, and the Industrial Committee of Ammunition Producers. He is also Past President of the Board of Directors of the Northeast Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Center. He serves on the Board of Directors of the local chapter of the Salvation Army, is a member of the Lions Club and was an elected member of the Moscow Borough Council.

In February, 2009, Mr. Flaherty was inducted into the Honorable Order of St. Barbara by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and that same year was awarded the W. Francis Swingle Award by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

Mr. Flaherty is married to the former Sheila Redding of Pittston. The couple has two children and five grandchildren and plan to reside in Oriental, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Flaherty for an outstanding career. His contributions to his profession, his community and his nation have been exemplary and he has been responsible for inspiring many others to emulate his example and his achievements.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF LIZ CARPENTER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor and remember my dear friend and women's rights crusader, Liz Carpenter, who passed away recently at the age of 89.

When I think about Liz Carpenter, I cannot help but be reminded of her colorful personality and her remarkable fortitude. At a time when women were just beginning to tear down gender barriers, she was working tirelessly to prove that she was capable, even overly-capable, of the jobs that were assigned to her. Her tireless spirit eventually paid off, and it is impossible to remember her without remembering her countless accomplishments for women and all Americans.

A sixth-generation Texas, Mrs. Carpenter was born in Salado, Texas. She went on to study at the University of Texas, and in 1942, shortly after graduating, she moved to Washington, D.C. where she found a job working at an independent news bureau. Her early years were spent working in journalism, and after marrying her husband, Leslie Carpenter, they opened the Carpenter News Service. Together they gathered news in Washington, D.C. and grew their business until they had 18 newspaper clients across the South and Southwest. With her husband, she had two children.

In 1960, Mrs. Carpenter joined Lyndon B. Johnson's vice presidential campaign, and after the assassination of President Kennedy, she penned the 58 words that President Johnson spoke shortly after receiving the oath of office. She remained with President Johnson until 1969 when he decided against seeking a second term as President. She remained in Washington until 1976 at which time she moved to Austin where she lectured on journalism at the University of Texas and was involved with the Lyndon B. Johnson Library. In 1981, after the death of her brother, she took in his three children and raised them to adulthood. Additionally, she was the author of four books.

A strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, Ms. Carpenter actively worked to see the rights of women enshrined in the Constitution. She was a passionate feminist and was a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus.

Madam Speaker, only 30 short days ago, I visited with Liz Carpenter. She was alert and well and still had as her number one interest the status of women. She suggested a state wide meeting on women, and was primarily concerned about the education of younger women. At the time, she encouraged me to continue the fight for more and better opportunities for all women across the country.

Madam Speaker, I am saddened by the loss of Ms. Carpenter, but I am grateful for her work, longevity, and strength. We will miss her vibrant personality, and I am heartened to know the world is a better place because of her. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring her memory and celebrating her life.